(c) Total 9 offers for South-I area and 8 offers for South-II area were received.

(d) As the earlier contract had expired, open tenders were floated to approve fresh contractors to deliver the bills to the customers' premises. Anticipating delay, due to certain procedural and administrative reasons in the finalisation of open tenders, limited tenders were invited for the delivery of bills for a period of 1 to 3 months pending finalisation of open tender. The limited tender call, however, has not been finalised and at present the bills are being delivered by post.

Ranchi-Patna-Mumbai Air Service

5554. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ranchi-Patna-Mumbai air services have been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reintroduce the air service on the above route ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Due to shortage of pilots, Indian Airlines had withdrawn their twice weekly service on sector Mumbai-Patna-Ranchi-Mumbai from December, 1992.

(c) Sahara India Airlines and Indian Airlines are operating to these places as per details given below :

Indian Airlines	**Frequency/Week**
Mumbai-Varanasi-Lucknow-Mumbai	3
Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Calcutta	2
Delhi-Patna-Ranchi-Delhi	7
Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Calcutta and return	3
Sahara India Airlines	
Mumbai-Ranchi-Patna-Delhi	3
Delhi-Ranchi-Patna-Mumbai	2
Delhi-Patna-Ranchi-Mumbai	1
Delhi-Ranchi-Patna-Delhi	3

Doordarshan Projects in Andhra Pradesh

5555. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of TV transmitters in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the number of Districts covered under the TV transmitter;

(c) whether representations have been received for setting up of TV transmitters in the State, location-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to install TV relay centre in Narsapuram so that programmes could be clear in East and West Godavari; and

(f) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Sixty one TV Transmitters of varying powers are, at present, functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The location-wise details of the TV Transmitters are given in the Statement.

(b) All the twenty three districts in Andhra Pradesh are, either wholly or partially, covered by the TV Transmitters functioning in the State.

(c) and (d) Representations are received from various quarters including the representatives of the people, from time to time, for expansion of TV service in hitherto uncovered/partly covered parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh. Doordarshan in its endeavour to augment TV service throughout the country considers these representation depending on various factors such as extent of resultant coverage; service to hilly, back-ward, tribal, remote, sensitive and border areas and availability of basic infrastructural facilities.

(e) and (f) There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a TV Transmitter at Narsapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The West Godavari District which lies in the coverage zone of the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) functioning at Vijayawada, is expected to receive TV service from the said Transmitter subject to local terrain conditions. As regards the East Godavari District, it is expected to receive TV service from the HPT presently under implementation at Rajamundry subject to local terrain conditions, when commissioned into service. The installation work of HPT at Rajamundry is expected to be completed during 1997-98.

STATEMENT

LIST SHOWING THE EXISTING TV TRANSMITTERS IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

HPTs

Anantapur
Hyderabad
Nandyal

Tirupati
Vijayawada
Visakhapatnam

LPTs

Adilabad
Adoni
Alagadda
Amalapuram
Atmakur
Bhadrachalam
Bheemadolu
Bheemavaram
Chittoor
Cuddapah
Emmiganur
Gadwal
Giddalur
Guntakal
Hindupur
Jagtial
Kakinada
Kamareddy
Karimnagar
Kavali
Khammam
Kosgi
Kothagudam
Kuppam
Kurnool
L.R. Pally
Madhira
Madnapalli
Mandassa
Medak
Mehboobnagar
Nagar Kurnool
Nalgonda
Norayanpet
Nellore
Nirmal
Nizamabad
Ongole
Produttur
Rajamundry
Ramagundam
Siddipet
Srikakulam
Tandur
Visakhapatnam
Wanaparthy
Warangal
Yellandu
Hyderabad (DD II)

VLPTs

Chintapalli
Icchapuram
Paderu
Parwatipuram
Srisailam

Transposer

Vijayawada

[Translation]

Setting up of Base Depot

5556. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of base depots of Food Corporation of India for supplying foodgrains under the Public Distribution System and revamped Public Distribution System, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether these base depots are sufficient to meet requirement;

(c) if not, whether the Union Government propose to set up more base depots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Reduction in ISD Charges

5557. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Singapore have reduced the ISD charges from Singapore to India; and

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to reduce the rates of ISD to various countries and Singapore in particular to boost overall competitiveness ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Telecommunications has already introduced concessional rates for ISD calls to all countries including Singapore during off-peak period i.e. between 2300 Hrs. and 0600 Hrs. with effect from 1st June, 1995.

Nickel

5558. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of nickel plant in the country, location-wise;

(b) the approximate quantity reserve during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the import of nickel was made during the aforesaid period;

(d) if so, the foreign exchange spent on import thereto;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to set up new plants in various States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise ?